

Date: July 2016
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the Council
From: Edward F. Pearson, President, Library Board of Trustees
Re: **FY 2015-2016 Annual Report of Library Board of Trustees**

The Library Board of Trustees (LBT) is pleased to present its report for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-2016. This year, the LBT has consisted of Edward Pearson, Andy Lippman, Connie Lue, Edward Pearson, and Rick Thomas. Ann Penn completed her term as Trustee in December 2015, and the LBT welcomed Carolyn Flemming as Trustee in February 2016. The mission of the LBT is to monitor the activities and progress of the South Pasadena Public Library (Library), to work with Library staff in the development of the proposed budget request to the South Pasadena City Council, and to advise the Library and the City of South Pasadena (City) on subjects of Library policy. FY 2015-2016 was another successful year for the Library in meeting the cultural and educational needs of the community.

Among the LBT's important work in FY 2015-2016, two items stand out: 1) involvement in support of Measure L and 2) participation in the now-complete Library Operations Study. Measure L extended for eight years, at increased tax rates, the parcel tax specifically in support of the Library's budget. The LBT encouraged the efforts of the Measure L Committee and helped "spread the word" on the crucial nature of the money supplied to the Library by Measure L. Measure L passed with over 80% of South Pasadena voters approving this continued support of the Library. The LBT is most grateful for the voters' confidence in our Library.

The Library Operations Study, carried out by consultant Joe Matthews, was completed during this FY. Mr. Matthews continued the work done in the prior year and conducted interviews with many Library stakeholders. He brought to bear his expertise in evaluating the qualities of other successful libraries. In connection with the Study, members of the LBT visited several area libraries to observe their operations and discuss best practices. In his presentation and report on the Study, Mr. Matthews identified several areas of focus for better Library operations, including reorganized staffing, finances, facility improvements and maintenance, technology, communications, and collections and resources. There were 56 recommendations presented by Mr. Matthews. After discussion (including a Special Meeting) among the LBT, with input from the Library staff, Friends of the Library, and other stakeholders, the LBT approved all of the 56 recommendations and spoke in support of the report and recommendations to the South Pasadena City Council.

Both Measure L and the Library Operations Study are vital to the Library's successful future.

The LBT continued efforts to review and update Library policy and evaluate progress in meeting the goals of the *Library Strategic Plan 2011 to 2015*. As a step toward analyzing all of the Library's policies, the LBT made changes to the Community Room policy and the Ray Bradbury Conference Room policy. Outdated or inadequate policies regarding room and equipment use were replaced to better serve the South Pasadena community. The LBT also devoted time to assessing the success in implementing each portion of the Strategic Plan in place from 2011 to 2015 and determining how to follow up if future work is necessary to fulfill the goals set by the Library.

In addition to the "Big Picture" work summarized above, the LBT also played a role in a number of facility and systems upgrades in FY 2015-2016. These included the installation of new carpeting and security cameras, repainting of the exterior of the building, repair and preventative work related to flood damage, and AV updates. Of particular note is the grant-supported involvement in the CENIC Broadband Project, which, when completed, will provide high-speed broadband connectivity through the CALREN network.

As in previous years, the Library hosted many events and participated in many collaborative ventures with various partners. The Library's long-standing relationship with the family of artist Leo Politi was celebrated in early 2016, with an exhibition of the artist's work in January and the dedication of a sculpture by the well-known artist in March. Events with baseball legend Tommy Lasorda, singing star Rumer, California State Poet Laureate Dana Gioia, and celebrity chef Eric Ripert drew enthusiastic full house audiences and demonstrated the Library's importance to the City's cultural life. Author nights, movie screenings, lectures and panels, and musical performances throughout FY 2015-2016 provided education, enrichment, and entertainment to South Pasadena's residents.

The Library is incredibly fortunate to have great support from the Friends of the Library and its volunteers. The 2016 Volunteer Recognition Luncheon was a successful tribute to these critical champions of the Library. The Library would like to thank the volunteers, the Friends of the Library, and the generous community of South Pasadena for their support.